

MID

the first and superior of these arises from the sternum, and the ends of the last ribs on each side: its fibres, from this semicircular origination, tend towards their centre, and terminate in a tendon or aponeurosis, which hath always been taken for the nervous part of the *midriff*. The second and inferior muscle comes from the vertebrae of the loins by two productions, of which that on the right side comes from the first, second, and third vertebrae of the loins; that on the left side is somewhat shorter; and both these productions join and make the lower part of the *midriff*, which joins its tendons with the tendon of the other, so as that they make but one membrane, or rather partition.

Whereat he only rag'd, and as they talk'd,
Smote him into the *midriff* with a stone
That beat out life.

In the gullet, where it perforateth the *midriff*, the carnicous fibres of that muscular part are inflected.

MID-SEA. *n. f.* [*mid* and *sea*.] The Mediterranean sea.

Our Tyrrhene Pharos, that the *mid-sea* meets
With its embrace, and leaves the land behind.

MIDSHIPMAN. *n. f.* [*from mid*, *ship*, and *man*.]

Midshipmen are officers aboard a ship, whose station, when they are on duty, is some on the quarter-deck, others on the poop, &c. Their business is to mind the braces, to look out, and to give about the word of command from the captain and other superior officers: they also assist on all occasions, both in sailing the ship, and in storing and rummaging the hold. They are usually young gentlemen, who having served their time as volunteers, are now upon their preferment.

MIDST. *n. f.* Middle.

All is well when nothing pleases but God, being thankful in the *midst* of his afflictions.

Ariste, ye subtle spirits, that can spy
When love is enter'd in a female's eye;
You that can read it in the *midst* of doubt,
And in the *midst* of frowns can find it out.

MIDST. *adj.* [*contracted from midst*, the superlative of *mid*.]

Midmost; being in the middle.

On earth join all ye creatures to extol
Him first, Him last, Him *midst*, and without end.

In the Slighted Maid, there is nothing in the first act but what might have been said or done in the fifth; nor any thing in the *midst* which might not have been placed in the beginning.

MIDSTREAM. *n. f.* [*mid* and *stream*.] Middle of the stream.

The *midstream*'s his; I creeping by the side,
And shoulder'd off by his impetuous tide.

MIDSUMMER. *n. f.* [*mid* and *summer*.] The summer solstice, popularly reckoned to fall on June the twenty-fourth.

However orthodox my sentiments relating to publick affairs may be while I am now writing, they may become criminal enough to bring me into trouble before *Midsummer*.

At eve last *Midsummer* no sleep I fought.

MIDWAY. *n. f.* [*mid* and *way*.] The part of the way equally distant from the beginning and end.

No midway 'twixt these extremes at all.

He were an excellent man that were made in the midway between him and Benedick; the one is too like an image, and says nothing; and the other too like my lady's eldest son, evermore tattling.

Pity and shame! that they, who to live well
Stood so fair, should turn aside to tread
Paths indirect, or in the midway faint!

The hare laid himself down about midway, and took a nap; for I can fetch up the tortoise when I please.

How didst thou arrive at this place of darkness, when so many rivers of the ocean lie in the midway.

MIDWAY. *adj.* Middle between two places.

How fearful
And dizzy 'tis, to cast one's eyes so low!
The crows and choughs that wing the midway air,
Shew scarce so gross as beetles.

MIDWAY. *adv.* In the middle of the passage.

With dry eyes, and with an open look,
She met his glance midway.

MIDWIFE. *n. f.* [*This* is derived, both by Skinner and Junius, from *mid* or *med*, a reward, and *pur*, Saxon.] A woman who assists women in childbirth.

When man doth die, our body, as the womb,
And as a *midwife*, death directs it home.

Without a *midwife* these their throws sustain,
And bowing, bring their issue forth with pain.

There saw I how the secret felon wrought,
And treason lab'ring in the traitor's thought,
And *midwife* time the ripen'd plot to murder brought.

I had as clear a notion of the relation of brothers between them, as if I had all the skill of a *midwife*.

MIG

But do man, sure! e'er left his house
And faddl'd ball with thoughts so wild,
To bring a *midwife* to his spouse,
Before he knew the was with child.

MIDWIFERY. *n. f.* [*from midwife*.]

1. Assistance given at childbirth.

2. Act of production; help to production; co-operation in production.

3. Trade of a midwife.

MIDWINTER. *n. f.* [*mid* and *winter*.] The winter solstice.

Begin when the flow waggoner descends,
Nor cease your sowing till *Midwinter* ends.

MIEN. *n. f.* [*mine*, French.] Air; look; manner.

In her alone that owns this book is seen
Clorinda's spirit, and her lofty *mien*.

What can have more the figure and *mien* of a ruin than cragges, rocks, and cliffs.

One, in whom an outward *mien* appear'd,
And turn superior to the vulgar herd.

What winning graces, what majestic *mien*,
She moves a goddess, and she looks a queen.

MIGHT, the preterite of *may*.

Matters of such consequence should be in plain words, as little liable as *might* to be doubted.

MIGHT. *n. f.* [*might*, Saxon.] Power; strength; force.

But wanting rest, will also want *might*.

Quoth she, great grief will not be told,
And can more easily be thought than said;

Right so, quoth he, but he that never would,
Could never; will to *might* gives greatest aid.

An oath of mickle *might*.

Wherefore should not strength and *might*
There fail, where virtue fails.

With *might* and main they chae'd the murderous fox,
With brazen trumpets and inflated box.

This privilege the clergy in England formerly contended for with all *might* and main.

MIGHTILY. *adv.* [*from mighty*.]

1. With great power; powerfully; efficaciously; forcibly.

With whom ordinary means will prevail, surely the power of the word of God, even without the help of interpreters, in God's church worketh *mightily*, not unto their confirmation alone which are converted, but also to their conversion which are not.

2. Vehemently; vigorously; violently.

Do as adversaries do in law, strive *mightily*, but eat and drink as friends.

3. In a great degree; very much. This is a fence scarcely to be admitted but in low language.

Therein thou wrong'st thy children *mightily*.

That *mightily* deceives you.

An ass and an ape conferring grievances: the ass complain'd *mightily* for want of horns, and the ape for want of a tail.

These happening nearer home made so lasting impressions upon their minds, that the tradition of the old deluge was *mightily* obscured, and the circumstances of it interwoven and confounded with those of these later deluges.

I was *mightily* pleas'd with a story applicable to this piece of philosophy.

MIGHTINESS. *n. f.* [*from mighty*.] Power; greatness; height of dignity.

Think you see them great,
And follow'd with gen'ral throng and sweat
Of thousand friends; then in a moment see,
How soon this *mightiness* meets misery!

Will't please your *mightiness* to wash your hands? *Shak.*

MIGHTY. *adj.* [*from might*.]

1. Powerful; strong.

Nimrod began to be a *mighty* one in the earth.

Great is truth, and *mighty* above all things.

He is wife in heart and *mighty* in strength.

2. Excellent, or powerful in any act.

The *mighty* master smil'd.

MIGHTY. *adv.* In a great degree. Not to be used but in very low language.

Lord of his new hypothesis he reigns:

He reigns; How long? Till some usurper rise,
And he too *mighty* thoughtful, *mighty* wife:

Studies new lines.

MIGRATION. *n. f.* [*migratio*, *migre*, Lat.] Act of changing place.

MIL

Aristotle distinguisheth their times of generation, latancy, and migration, fanity, and venation.

Although such alterations, transitions, migrations of the centre of gravity, and elevations of new islands, had actually happened, yet these shells could never have been repoted thereby in the manner we find them.

MILCH. *adj.* [*from milk*.] Giving milk.

Herne doth, at still of midnight,
Walk round about an oak, with ragged horns;

And then he blasts the tree, and takes the cattle,
And makes *milk* kine yield blood.

In mincing with his sword her husband's limbs,
The instant burit of clamour that the made,

Would have made *milk* the burning eyes of heav'n.

The best mixtures of water in ponds for cattle, to make them more *milk*, fatten, or keep them from murrain, may be chalk and nitre.

Not above fifty-one have been starved, excepting infants at nurse, caused rather by carelessness and infirmity of the *milk* women.

With the turneps they feed sheep, *milk*-cows, or fatting cattle.

MILD. *adj.* [*mild*, Saxon.]

1. Kind; tender; good; indulgent; merciful; compassionate; clement; soft; not severe; not cruel.

The execution of justice is committed to his judges, which is the fever part; but the *milder* part, which is mercy, is wholly left in the king.

If that *mild* and gentle god thou be,
Who dost mankind below with pity see.

It teaches us to adore him as a *mild* and merciful being, of infinite love to his creatures.

2. Soft; gentle; not violent.

The rosy morn renews her light,
And *milder* glory to the noon.

Nothing reserv'd or fullen was to see,
But sweet regards, and pleasing fancy;

Mild was his accent, and his action free.

Sylvia's like autumn ripe, yet *mild* as May,
More bright than noon, yet fresh as early day.

The folding gates diffus'd a silver light,
And with a *milder* gleam refresh'd the sight.

3. Not acid; not coriolic; not acrimonious; demulcent; assuasive; mollifying; lenitive.

Their qualities are changed by rendering them acrimonious or *mild*.

4. Not sharp; mellow; sweet; having no mixture of acidity.

The Irish were transplanted from the woods and mountains into the plains, that, like fruit trees, they might grow the *milder*, and bear the better and sweeter fruit.

Suppose your eyes sent equal rays
Upon two distant pots of ale,

Not knowing which was *mild* or stale.

MILDERNAX. *n. f.* Cannabum nauticum.

MILDEW. *n. f.* [*milcheape*, Saxon.]

Mildew is a disease that happens in plants, and is caused by a dewy moisture which falls on them, and continuing, for want of the sun's heat, to draw it up, by its acrimony corrodes, gnaws, and spoils, the inmost substance of the plant, and hinders the circulation of the nutritive sap; upon which the leaves begin to fade, and the blossoms and fruit are much prejudiced: or, *mildew* is rather a concrete substance, which exudes through the pores of the leaves. What the gardeners commonly call *mildew* is an insect, which is frequently found in great plenty, preying upon this exudation. Others say, that *mildew* is a thick, clammy vapour, exhaled in the Spring and Summer from the plants, blossoms, and even the earth itself, in close, still weather, where there is neither sun enough to draw it upwards to any considerable height, nor wind of force strong enough to disperse it: it condenses and falls on plants, and with its thick, clammy substance stops the pores, and by that means prevents perspiration. Miller thinks the true cause of the *mildew* appearing most upon plants which are exposed to the East, is a dry temperature in the air when the wind blows from that point, which stops the pores of the plants, and prevents their perspiration; whereby the juices of the plants are concreted upon the surface of their leaves, which being of a sweetish nature, insects are inticed thereto, where finding proper nutriment they deposit their eggs, and multiply so fast as to cover the whole surfaces of the plants, and, by corroding the vessels, prevent the motion of the sap. It is observable, that whenever a tree has been greatly affected by this *mildew*, it seldom recovers it in two or three years, and many times never is intirely clear from it after.

Down fell the *mildew* of his faged words.

The *mildew* cometh by closeness of air; and therefore in hills, or champaign grounds, it seldom cometh.

Soon blasting *mildews* black'ned all the grain.

MIL

To *MILDEW*. *v. a.* To taint with mildew.

Here is your husband, like a *mildew'd* ear,
Blasting his wholesome brother.

He *mildews* the white wheat, and hurts the poor creatures of the earth.

Morals snatch from Plutarch's tatter'd page,
A *mildew'd* Bacon, or Stagyras's sage.

MILDLY. *adv.* [*from mild*.]

1. Tenderly; not severely.

Prince, too *mildly* reigning,

Cease thy sorrow and complaining.

2. Gently; not violently.

The air once heated maketh the flame burn more *mildly*, and so helpeth the continuance.

MILDNESS. *n. f.* [*from mild*.]

1. Gentleness; tenderness; mercy; clemency.

This milky gentleness and course of yours;
You are much more at talk for want of wisdom,
Than prais'd for harmful *mildness*.

The same majestic *mildness* held its place;
Nor lost the monarch in his dying face.

His probity and *mildness* shows
His care of friends and scorn of foes.

I saw with what a brow you brav'd your fate;
Yet with what *mildness* bore your father's hate.

2. Contrariety to acrimony.

MILE. *n. f.* [*mille passus*, Latin.] The usual measure of roads in England, one thousand seven hundred and sixty yards, or, five thousand two hundred and eighty feet.

We must measure twenty *miles* to-day.

Within this three *mile* may you see it coming,
A moving grove.

When the enemy appeared, the foot and artillery was four *miles* behind.

Millions of *miles*, so rapid is their race,
To cheer the earth they in few moments pass.

MILESTONE. *n. f.* [*mile* and *stone*.] Stone set to mark the miles.

MILFOIL. *n. f.* [*millefolium*, Latin.] A plant, the same with yarrow.

Milfoil and honey-suckles pound,
With these alluring favours strew the ground.

MILHARY. *adj.* [*militum* millet, Latin; *militaire*, Fr.] Small; resembling a millet seed.

The scarf-skin is composed of small scales, between which the excretory ducts of the *military* glands open.

MILICE. *n. f.* [*French*.] Standing force. A word innovated by Temple, but unworthy of reception.

The two-and-twentieth of the prince's age is the time assigned by their constitutions for his entering upon the publick charges of their *milice*.

MILITANT. *adj.* [*militans*, Latin; *militante*, Fr.]

1. Fighting; prosecuting the business of a soldier.

Against foul fiends they aid us *militant*;
They for us fight; they watch and duly ward,

And their bright squadrons round about us plant.

2. Engaged in warfare with hell and the world. A term applied to the church of Christ on earth, as opposed to the church triumphant.

Then are the publick duties of religion best ordered, when the *militant* church doth resemble, by sensible means, that hidden dignity and glory wherewith the church triumphant in heaven is beautified.

The state of a Christian in this world is frequently compared to a warfare: and this allusion has appeared so just, that the character of *militant* has obtained as the common distinction of that part of Christ's church sojourning here in this world from that part of the family at rest.

MILITAR. *adj.* [*militaris*, Latin; *militaire*, Fr.]

MILITARY. *adj.* [*from militar*.] is now wholly out of use.

1. Engaged in the life of a soldier; soldierly.

In the time of Severus and Antoninus, many, being soldiers, had been converted unto Christ, and notwithstanding continued still in that *military* course of life.

He will maintain his argument as well as any *military* man in the world.

2. Suited a soldier; pertaining to a soldier; warlike.

Although he were a prince in *military* virtue approved, yet his cruelties weighed down his virtues.

Numbers numberless
The city gates out-pour'd, light-armed troops
In coats of mail and *military* pride.

The wreaths his grandfire knew to reap
By active toil, and *military* sweat,
Pining incline their sickly leaves.

3. Effected by soldiers.

He was with general applause, and great cries of joy, in a kind of *militar* election or recognition, saluted king.

MILITIA.